

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A mower assembly, comprising:
a mower deck having a trim surface; and

a mower deck bumper having first and second ends and a bend section, the first end of the mower deck bumper being coupled to the mower deck, the bend section covering at least a portion of the trim surface, and the second end of the mower deck bumper maintaining sliding engagement with the mower deck;

wherein the mower deck bumper is configured and arranged to engage objects in close proximity to the mower deck that would otherwise contact the trim surface, and the second end of the mower deck bumper is configured to slide relative to the mower deck while maintaining contact with the mower deck when the mower deck bumper engages the objects.

11. (original) The mower assembly of claim 10, wherein the bend section is spaced apart laterally from the trim surface.

12. (original) The mower assembly of claim 10, wherein the trim surface is oriented substantially vertically and the mower deck bumper is aligned substantially parallel to the trim surface.

13. (original) The mower assembly of claim 10, wherein the mower deck includes a side edge defining an outer most side of the mower, and the mower deck bumper is coupled to the side edge.

14. (original) The mower assembly of claim 10, wherein the first end of the mower deck bumper is coupled to the mower deck.

15. (previously presented) The mower assembly of claim 10, wherein the second end of the mower deck bumper includes a first portion that maintains contact with the mower deck, and a second portion that extends away from and is not in contact with the mower deck.

16. (original) The mower assembly of claim 10, wherein the bend section is resilient.

17-18. (canceled)